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American Literature

Guide to the

James Whitcomb Riley collection of papers

1878-[1964 [bulk 1878-1915]

Berg Coll MSS Riley

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916

Title: James Whitcomb Riley collection of papers

Date: 1878-[1964 [bulk 1878-1915]

Size: 52 items

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and correspondence.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History

James Whitcomb Riley was an American poet, journalist, and lecturer.

Custodial History

Previous owners include H. R. F. Appleton, John L. Clawson, W. T. H. Howe, and Owen D. Young.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and correspondence. The manuscripts include poems and a contribution to H. R. F. Appleton's album. The correspondence includes letters from the author, dating from 1880 to 1915, to Robert Jones Burdette, Madison Julius Cawein, Edward Friberger, John Habberton, W. T. H. Howe, Robert V. Johnson, and others, as well as letters relating to the author, dating from 1936 to [1964], between various correspondents, including Alfred Noyes, Ruth Witt-Diamant, Marguerite Young, and others. There is a March 1889 letter to Riley from Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916
Appleton, Harriet R. F.
Appleton, Harriet R. F.
Appleton, Harriet R. F.
Burdette, Robert J. (Robert Jones), 1844-1914
Cawein, Madison Julius, 1865-1914
Clawson, John L. (John Lewis), 1865-1933
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910
Friberger, Edward
Habberton, John, 1842-1921
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Johnson, Robert Vincent
Noyes, Alfred, 1880-1958
Witt-Diamant, Ruth
Young, Marguerite, 1908-1995
Young, Owen D., 1874-

Container List

Manuscripts

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Cased | Doc Sifers. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | "I like fun and I like jokes 'bout as well as most o'folks!" Holograph contribution to an album n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. Removed from: Appleton, H. R. F. Autographs of actors and actresses; Y. |
| Cased | Leaves from an album of "Opinions, tastes, and fancies," filled out in the hand of James W. Riley. 1891 [Jan. 1 (1 item) (1 item)]
John L. Clawson bookplate; H. |
| Oversize (+) | "Mylo Jones' wife." Holograph poem. Bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
John L. Clawson bookplate; H. |
| Cased | Nuthin' to say. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | reporter, The. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Cased | When evening shadows fall. Holograph poem 1878 Nov. 25 (2 p) (2 p)
With accompanying ALS to Miss [Sallie] Smith presenting the poem. H. |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- | | |
|--|--|
| Oversize (+) | Burdette, Robert Jones. 2 ALS to. Bound 1880 Jan. 9, 1881 Nov. 8 (2 letters) (2 letters) |
| Manuscript box | Carey, [William]. ALS to 1893 June 2 (2 p) (2 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Carey, [William?]. ALS to 1896 Mar. 6 (2 p) (2 p)
Y. |
| Manuscript box | Cawein, Madison Julius. ALS to 1890 Apr. 7 (2 p) (2 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1890 Sept. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1890 Oct. 3 (2 p) (2 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1891 Mar. 19 (1 letter) (1 letter)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1891 July 3 (3 p) (3 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Cawein, Madison J. ALS to 1891 July 27 (2 p) (2 p)
H. |
| Inserted in:
Cawein, M.
Blooms of the
berry. Louisville,
1887. Copy 1 | Cawein, Madison. ALS to 1891 Aug. 20 (2 p) (2 p) |
| Inserted in: Riley,
J. W. Afterwhiles.
Fourth thousand.
Indianapolis,
1888. Copy 2 | Cawein, Madison. Postal card to 1891 Sept. 16 (1 p) (1 p) |

	Correspondence (cont.)
	Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)
Manuscript box	Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1891 Sept. 19 (1 letter) (1 letter) H.
Manuscript box	Cawein, Madison. ALS to 1891 Sept. 22 (3 p) (3 p) H.
Manuscript box	Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1891 Sept. 25 (2 p) (2 p) H.
Cased	Cawein, Madison. ALS to 1891 Dec. 14 (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1892 Nov. 21 (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	Cawein, [Madison J.]. ALS to 1896 Oct. 31 (2 p) (2 p) H.
Manuscript box	Cawein, Madison. ALS to 1903 July 21 (2 p) (2 p) H.
Manuscript box	Cochrane, Miss. ALS to 1888 Sept. 3 (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	Dooley, A. H. ALS to 1897 Sept. 2 (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	Edgar, W. C. ALS and postcard to 1886 Nov. 8, 1896 Mar. 12 (2 letters) (2 letters)
Manuscript box	Friberger, Edward. ALS to 1891 Oct. 23 (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	Friberger, [Edward]. ALS to. Written on proof sheet of his poem The reporter 1891 Oct. 26 (1 letter) (1 letter)
Oversize (+)	Gilder, Mr. ALS to 1888 Sept. 3 (1 p) (1 p) With: Riley, J. W. ALS to Robert V. Johnson. Jan. 12, 1907
Manuscript box	Gilder, [Richard Watson]. ALS to 1889 Dec. 1 (1 p) (1 p) H.
Inserted in: Riley, J. W. A child- world. London, 1896	Habberton, John. ALS to 1898 Oct. 19 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Habberton, John. ALS to 1901 June 19 (2 p) (2 p) H.
Inserted in: Riley, J. W. Green fields and running brooks. Indianapolis, 1893	Howe, W. T. H. LS to 1915 Dec. 26 (1 p) (1 p)
Oversize (+)	Johnson, Robert V. ALS to 1886 Dec. 27 (2 p) (2 p) With: Riley, J. W. ALS to Robert V. Johnson. Jan. 12, 1907
Oversize (+)	Johnson, Robert V. ALS to 1890 June 3 (2 p) (2 p) With: Riley, J. W. ALS to Robert V. Johnson. Jan. 12, 1907
Oversize (+)	Johnson, Robert V. ALS to. Bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe 1907 Jan. 12 (2 p) (2 p) John L. Clawson bookplate; H.
Manuscript box	Keller, Martha Caroline. ALS to. At foot of last stanza of poem submitted to J. W. Riley for criticism by the correspondent n.d. (1 p) (1 p) On verso: Christmas greetings to [--?]. 1892

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Inserted in his:
Riley love-lyrics.
Indianapolis
[1899]

Matthews, Dr. James Newton. ALS to 1903 Apr. 27 (2 p) (2 p)

Manuscript box Riley, John A. ALS to his brother 1883 Aug. 29 (3 p) (3 p)

Manuscript box [--?], George. ALS to 1891 July 28 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box [--?], George. ALS to 1891 Sept. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box [--?], George. ALS to 1904 Sept. 3 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to. In verse 1888 Feb. 6 (1 letter) (1 letter)
H.

Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1893 Mar. 15 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to. Mutilated 1908 Mar. 18 (3 p) (3 p)

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box Clemens, Samuel Langhorne. ALS to Messrs. Nye and Riley 1889 Mar. 4 (2 p) (2 p)

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box Noyes, Alfred. TL (copy) to the editor of the Times. Relates to Rudyard Kipling and J. W. Riley 1936 Feb. 15 (3 p) (3 p)
Enclosed in: Kipling, Caroline (Balestier) 2 ALS, 14 TLS, 1 telegram to A. P. Watt & son. Letter of Feb. 23, 1936. Folder 4

Manuscript box Young, Marguerite. ALS, TL to Ruth Witt-Diamant. Mention James Whitcomb Riley 1964 Feb. 18], [n.d (2 letters) (2 letters)